

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
March 29, 2016



VARIETY OF IMPROVEMENTS BEING MADE AT HARTFORD REGIONAL MARKET AS IT READIES FOR 2016 SEASON

As the farmers' market at the Hartford Regional Market approaches its busiest time of year, the Dept. of Agriculture is making changes to improve the market experience for both growers and customers.

About a half-dozen vendors set up for a 2016 season preview last Saturday, offering holiday bulb plants, pansies, perennials, shrubs, and foods including apples, eggs, parsnips, popcorn, and value-added products such as sauces and salsas.

Following the traditional annual Easter weekend sales, activity at the farmers' market is typically limited until late April or early May, when vendors and product selection increase leading up to Mother's Day on May 8 and into the peak growing months.

The department has taken several steps to ensure the market is fully promoted and providing a safe and rewarding environment for growers and customers.

"As Connecticut's original regional farmers' market, it serves customers from all eight counties and every socioeconomic level," said Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky. "We've done significant research and analysis in recent years to determine how to better serve both the people who shop here and the farmers who sell at this market, and are implementing changes to accomplish that."

Among the changes are:

- Encouraging new farmers of all types and sizes to participate in the market through a "Guest Vendor" option that allows a grower to try out selling at the market for a day at a cost of \$30 on a Saturday and \$20 on a Sunday.
- Increasing transparency at the market through enhanced labeling and signage rules requiring visible posting of product origin and retail pricing.

"For many customers, there is an assumption that everything being sold by a farmers' market vendor was grown or produced at the seller's farm," Reviczky said. "In reality, farmers often buy from and sell to one another, especially when one specializes in certain crops and others focus on different crops. The purpose of this new mandatory labeling is to eliminate any misunderstanding about where a product came from."

- Enhanced promotion of the market in various media: The department is using nearly \$67,000 in USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant funding to advertise the market on broadcast and internet radio stations, as well as in newspapers, on social media and through new billboards.

Radio advertising includes spots throughout the spring and summer on stations including WTIC AM 1080 and its

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:	LOW	HIGH
breakers 75-80% lean	72.00	80.00
boners 80-85% lean	72.00	78.50
lean 88-90% lean	69.00	75.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	133.50	137.00
Choice 2-3	129.00	135.50
Sel 1-2	124.00	131.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS		
Ch 2-3	109.00	124.50
Sel 1-2	103.00	117.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Ch 2-3	124.50	128.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 114-128 lbs	222.00	232.00
No 1 102-112 lbs	245.00	255.00
No 1 90-100 lbs	265.00	275.00
No 2 94-118 lbs	242.00	259.00
No 2 80-92 lbs	275.00	276.00
No 3 90-98 lbs	250.00	257.00
No 3 72-88 lbs	267.00	270.00
Utility 90-110 lbs	180.00	190.00
Utility 60-88 lbs	225.00	250.00
CALVES - Graded heifers		
No 1 80-110 lbs	260.00	320.00
No 2 75-110 lbs	200.00	250.00
Utility 70-95 lbs	110.00	150.00
Utility 65-70 lbs	40.00	50.00
FRESH COWS		
Supreme	1900.00	2000.00
Approved	1550.00	1800.00
Medium	1350.00	1550.00
Common	950.00	1250.00
BRED COWS		
Approved	1500.00	1600.00
Medium	1225.00	1275.00
Common	700.00	1025.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
40-50 lbs	280.00	310.00
50-60 lbs	265.00	280.00
60-70 lbs	247.00	255.00
70-80 lbs	235.00	260.00
80-90 lbs	230.00	245.00
90-110 lbs	227.00	248.00
110-130 lbs	220.00	238.00
130-150 lbs	172.00	176.00
150-200 lbs	154.00	168.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good and Choice 2-3		
120-160 lbs	107.00	115.00
160-200 lbs	107.00	112.00
BUCKS		
160-200 lbs	70.00	110.00
200-300 lbs	70.00	95.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Select 1, by head, est.		
40-60 lbs	170.00	185.00
60-80 lbs	185.00	220.00
80-100 lbs	220.00	225.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES:		
Sel1, by head, est.		
80-130 lbs	180.00	215.00
130-180 lbs	230.00	245.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Select 1		
100-150 lbs	240.00	260.00
150-250 lbs	305.00	365.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4OZ	16.00	16.50
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	14.00
APPLES, EMPIRE, #1, 120, 140	15.00	16.00
APPLES, MACS, #1, 120, 140	15.00	16.00
APPLES, MACS, FNCY, 80, 88	17.00	17.00
APPLE, MACS, FCY, 2-1/2", 12-3LB	15.00	15.00
APPLES, MACS, FNCY, 120, 140	17.00	17.00
APPLE, RED DEL, XFNCY, 80, 88	18.00	18.00
APPLES, RED DEL, XFNCY, 100	16.00	16.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FNCY, 125	16.00	16.00
APPLES, RED DEL, FNCY, 138	16.00	16.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	5.00	6.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEET, CHIOGGA, LOOSE, 25LBS	14.00	14.00
BEETS, GOLD, LOOSE, 25 LBS	12.00	12.00
BEETS, RED, ORG, 25 LBS	6.00	6.00
POTATOES, CHEF, 50 LBS	14.00	14.00
TOMS, CHERRY, ONVINE, GH, 5 LB	16.00	18.00
TOMS, CHERRY, GHSE, 8-10 OZ	23.00	24.00
TOMS, GHSE, VINERIP, 25 LBS	23.00	24.00
TOMATO, HEIRLM, GHSE, 10LBS	24.00	28.00

SHIPPED IN

APPLE, FUJI, ORG, WAXFCY, 80	74.00	74.00
APPLE, FUJI, NY, XFCY, 80	30.00	32.00
ASPARAGUS, CA, 28BNCH, 11LB	53.00	54.00
BEANS, MACH PICKED, FL, BU	18.00	20.00
BEETS, RED, BNCH, TX, 12	15.00	16.00
BOK CHOY, FL, 50 LBS	28.00	32.00
BOK CHOY, BABY, FL, 1.5 BU	24.00	32.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, NY, 50 LBS	11.00	13.00
CABBAGE, RED, FL, 50 LBS	16.00	18.00
CARROTS, CA, BUNCH, 24	21.00	22.00
CELERY, CHINESE, CA, CRATE	36.00	36.00
CHIVES, CHINESE, CA, CTNS	50.00	50.00
CHOY SUM, LONG, CA, 30 LBS	35.00	36.00
COLLARDS, TX, 12	20.00	22.00
CORN, BICOLOR, FL, 4-41/2 DZ	17.00	18.00
CUKE, LNG, GHSE, FLMWRP, 12	12.00	14.00
DANDELION, TX, 12 BNCH	16.00	18.00
EGGPLANT, WRAPPED, FL, 1-1/9	28.00	30.00
EGGPLNT, STRIPE, GHS, NL, 11LB	16.00	20.00
ENDIVE, FL, 24	22.00	26.00
ESCAROLE, FL, 1-1/9, 24	26.00	28.00
GAI CHOY, CA, 30 LBS	25.00	25.00
GARLIC, SUPR COL, CA, 30 LBS	68.00	70.00
GINGER ROOT, HI, 30 LBS	45.00	55.00
KALE, LACINITO, TX, 12	22.00	24.00
LETT, BSTN, GHS, CAN, 12-4OZ	16.00	17.00
LET, GNLF, AZ-CA, 24	12.00	16.00
LET, REDLF, AZ-CA, 24	12.00	16.00
LETT, OAKLF, CA, 2.2 LBS	11.00	13.00
MESCLUN MIX, CA, 3LBS	6.00	6.50
MESCLUN MIX, ORG, CA, 3LBS	8.00	8.00
MUSHRMS, OYSTER, PA, 5LBS	18.00	20.00
ONG CHOY, CA, 40 LBS	140.00	140.00
OPO SQUASH, CA, 35 LBS	33.00	36.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, CA, 30 LBS	54.00	54.00
RADISHES, FL, 14-1LB	18.00	22.00
RHUBARB, GHS, MI, 10 LBS	33.00	33.00
SPINACH, BABY, ORG, CA, 4LBS	9.00	10.00
SQUASH, YEL, MED, FL, 1/2 BU	28.00	28.00
TOMATO, MATURE GRN, FL, 5X6	24.00	26.00
TURNIP TOPS, GA, 24	15.00	16.00
ZUCCHINI, FL, MED, 1/2 BU	12.00	14.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - March 28, 2016

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	45.00	50.00
61-75 lbs.	110.00	150.00
76-90 lbs.	187.50	190.00
91-105 lbs.	192.50	195.00
106 lbs. & up	200.00	205.00
Farm Calves	210.00	240.00
Starter Calves	55.00	65.00
Veal Calves	125.00	145.00
Open Heifers	n/a	n/a
Beef Heifers	118.00	120.00
Feeder Steers	160.00	162.50
Beef Steers	103.00	160.00
Stock Bulls	160.00	180.00
Beef Bulls	100.00	107.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Sheep	50.00	105.00
Lambs	2ea@	200.00
Goats each	2ea@	110.00
Kid Goats	2ea@	110.00
Canners	up to	79.50
Cutters	80.00	83.00
Utility Grade Cows	84.00	86.00
Rabbits each	5.00	25.00
Chickens each	4.00	25.00
Ducks each	5.00	15.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.90	1.11
LARGE	.84	.98
MEDIUM	.63	.76

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.32	1.55
LARGE	1.24	1.49
MEDIUM	.80	.99
SMALL	.64	.86

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	40.00	46.00
	300-350 lbs	37.00	38.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	30.00	38.00
	300-350 lbs	30.00	35.50
	350-400 lbs	22.00	29.00
Sows, US 1-3			
	300-500 lbs	25.00	25.00
	400-500 lbs	19.50	21.00
	500-800 lbs	25.00	30.00
Boars	450-800 lbs	3.00	4.00

ORGANIC BROWN EGGS

EXTRA LARGE		
DOZEN	2.61	3.61
1/2 DOZEN	1.80	1.95
LARGE		
DOZEN	2.30	3.50
1/2 DOZEN	1.71	1.90

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

WANTED

36-R. Plastic mulch laying machine for 3 pt hitch. James A. Fazzone. 203-250-6677.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

24-R. The Connecticut Military Department has indoor stalls for lease at the Governor's Horse Guard facilities in Avon and Newtown. Monthly rate is \$350.00. For further information, please visit our website at www.ct.gov/mil/stall-lease or call 860-524-4968. Proceeds benefit Connecticut Governor's Horse Guards.

**REQUEST FOR SPECIALTY CROP
BLOCK GRANT CONCEPT PROPOSALS**

The CT Department of Agriculture is seeking concept proposals for projects that solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, defined by the USDA as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, maple syrup, honey, horticulture, and nursery crops.

Projects must impact and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public. Submitted projects cannot begin until after Jan. 1, 2017, and must be completed by Sept. 29, 2019. The maximum award is \$75,000.

More information and complete application guidelines are available at www.CTGrown.gov/grants.

Concept proposals are due to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture by 4 p.m. on **April 6, 2016** and should be submitted to jaime.smith@ct.gov. Questions may also be directed to Jaime at that email address or by calling 860-713-2559.

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digital counterpart, and FM stations including WNPR 90.5, WHCN 105.9, WKSS 95.7, WYYZ 92.5 and BOM-BA 97.1

New billboards will be installed around the market, including those visible to users of nearby Interstate 91 and state Route 5/15. Promotional signs also will be placed on the side of CT Transit buses that travel routes within Hartford.

The department's ongoing social media promotion of the market also will continue on its Facebook page. As it did last year, the department is encouraging growers to provide for the Facebook page the hours they plan to be at the market and the products they plan to offer on a weekly basis in order to draw customers looking for those specific items.

A new promotional feature will be "local-mobile" and "geo-fencing," which targets potential customers in specific geographical areas and delivers digital advertisements directly to their mobile devices.

Sandwich-style signs will be made available to vendors at the market to clearly label vendor information, product origin, and prices, helping them to comply with market labeling rules.

Designated wholesale and retail sales hours, along with improved traffic patterns to enhance customer safety: The logistics of the market can be confusing for some customers, so the department has modified the traffic flow around it to ensure that vehicles and customers do not mix.

The sales area is marked off with orange safety barrels to keep vehicles out during the retail sales hours of 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. on weekends when the market is typically the busiest.

"Because the Regional Market is home to a multitude of businesses in addition to farmers' market vendors, establishing safe and efficient traffic patterns is extremely challenging," said Linda Piotrowicz, director of the agency's Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Preservation, who also serves as executive director of the Regional Market.

"The numerous planners, architects, and engineers we have worked with over the years have emphasized the need to improve traffic patterns. As a result, we are limiting retail customer parking to the main lot behind the restaurant, with overflow parking in the lot next to the facility entrance, to enhance pedestrian safety. As always, we encourage shoppers to bring their own wagon or garden cart to help them carry large purchases back to their vehicles."

Spring sales center on garden plants such as annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, vegetable plants, shrubs, and trees, which for decades have been a major early-season draw for customers.

As warm-weather crops become more available, product selection transitions to all types of fresh produce, complementing year-round items such as honey and eggs. The Dept. of Agriculture hopes to expand the

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summer and fall seasons with additional vendors offering even greater product diversity.

"With customers of every type shopping at the market, there really is opportunity for farmers of all types and sizes," Piotrowicz said. "We have implemented more of an a-la-carte application process that enables vendors to sign up for specific days and months, so they don't need to make a larger commitment in time or staffing than they feel comfortable with."

Vendors have the option of selling seven days a week, but most focus on key days that work best for them. Some come only on weekends, while others also sell on one or more weekdays to serve loyal wholesale customers who purchase by the truckload to supply retail stores, restaurants, and farm stands.

To improve the shopping experience for the general public, the agency has designated specific retail hours of

6 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, during which the market area is closed to vehicular traffic and the widest selection of retail products is available.

Vendors must clearly post retail prices during those hours, along with product origins that must be posted at all times.

"We are making great strides with this farmers' market," Commissioner Reviczky said. "It's rewarding to hear customers comment about coming here as children with their grandparents, or perhaps only recently discovering that the market is still here. Now they are bringing their own children and renewing family traditions."

Vendor applications and market guidelines are available at:

<http://www.CTGrown.gov/RegionalMarket>

More information is available by calling 860-713-2503.



Advertising Rates: Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. For more information contact Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov or call 860-713-2588.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.

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